CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
Mrs Caryl Finnegan – Chairperson

At the first meeting of the College Board in 2013 the Board welcomed back returning members as well as extending a welcome to our new members, Student representatives - College Captain Carlie Saunders and College Vice-Captain Shalyn Mathew. Student input and reporting is integral to the Board informing it of the activities, concerns, successes and interests of the student body providing feedback on the effect of policies and practices that the Board may institute.

Overview
Reports were presented to the Board during 2013 by the Principal, Deputy Principals, Staff and Student Representatives and the Director of Faith Development and Treasurer on areas of Administration, Curriculum, Pastoral Care, Finance, Master plans and future directions. These reports were discussed and analysed to ensure the Avila is continued to provide the best practice in education and best facilities within our financial capabilities.

Stage 1 Master Plan
As part of the commitment to providing the best facilities that we can offer to our students to provide for their educational needs Stage 1 of the Master Plan was approved for the construction of a new gymnasium and Agricultural/Horticultural centre at our Board meeting in October. It is hoped to begin construction in 2014.

Avila can be truly proud in the work the leadership team under the direction of Principal Ms Louise Gunther constantly reviews and strengthen each of their particular area of responsibility. This is done both internally within leadership and committee discussions and externally such as the Review conducted in May of this year.

School Improvement Framework Review
This review was conducted by reviewers Keryn McGuinness and Janine Enright and takes place in the fourth year of the School Improvement Framework Cycle.

The School Improvement Framework of the Catholic Education Office Melbourne (CEOM) has two purposes:

• to satisfy legitimate expectations of government and sector authorities about accountability for the outcomes of schooling and the second
• to assist schools and teachers to improve student learning outcomes.

Quoting from the opening paragraph of the Executive Summary of that review states ‘Avila College is a welcoming school that has strong visionary leadership and a committed staff’… and further… that the college is endeavouring to provide holistic education to the young women it serves. In doing so, it is wholeheartedly embracing the challenges of the rapidly changing educational, social and spiritual landscape’.

Later in the summary the College was commended on the progress made in all spheres in the past few years - Education in Faith, Learning and Teaching, Student Wellbeing Leadership and Management and School Community.
Leadership  
Congratulations to the Principal Ms Louise Gunther and her Leadership Team, Mrs Christine Krajl, Mrs Madeleine Franken, Miss Rebecca Cetrola, Ms Chris Nichols and Mr John Rhynehart for their role in leading the school through a period of technological change and providing students with optimal learning environments.

This has been achieved while maintaining the core Catholic values as articulated in our Vision statement

Avila College’s vision is deeply grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ who says to us today, “I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.” [Jn. 10:10].

Each individual in this Community is honoured as one who is created in the image and likeness of God and, therefore, is unique; each in their own way living out the Gospel Values of Love, Peace, Justice, Forgiveness and Service.

We are “Ecclesiae Filia” (Daughter of the Church) and we look to two luminous women, St Teresa of Avila and Nano Nagle, as they demonstrate for us the multi-faceted ways in which we can live life fully within the College, the Church and the World. We do this through the contemplative example and “good works” witness of St Teresa of Avila and Nano Nagle.

The living out of the Gospel Values of Jesus and the responses we make to the lives and works of Teresa of Avila and Nano Nagle, inspire all the members of our Community to:

• understand that Catholic identity is relevant and of value in the modern world
• value life-long learning through the development of their creative and critical thinking skills
• be empowered to achieve excellence
• develop physical and mental wellbeing.

Parent Involvement  
With a group of enthusiastic parents the Parents and Friends Association has been reformed and with the support of Ms Gunther has hosted a number of events at the college. These do much to enrich the lives of the community while also providing a greater sense of connectedness throughout the Avila Community.

Nagle Education Alliance of Australia  
During 2013, after much discussion and planning Ms Gunther was very pleased to announce that Avila College is now formally part of the above named alliance. The organization brings together heritage and Presentation governed schools at both primary and secondary level throughout Australia who share the Presentation Charism. Each school is unique in its own way as their differing beginnings have given them a depth of vision combined with the light of Nano Nagle. In the case of Avila the early staff of Avila laid wonderful foundations and values for our school and these have been strengthened by visionary women leaders.

The alliance will be a benefit to all by providing an avenue for staff and students to exchange ideas.
**Acknowledgements**

Avila College is served well by its Board membership which strives to have the best outcomes for the students and Avila community. Thank you to all my fellow Board members for their service, to Father Brendan Dillon, the Canonical Administrator of the College for his guidance in matters both spiritual and administrative and to a special mention to Mr Norm Phillips our Business Manager who ensures the college is financially sound and facilities are appropriate for the educational needs of our young women.

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chairperson &amp; Glen Waverley Parish Rep.</td>
<td>Mrs Caryl Finnegan</td>
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<td>Vice Chairperson</td>
<td>Mr Henry Mallia</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Mr Des Moroney</td>
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<td>Secretary &amp; Mount Waverley Parish Rep.</td>
<td>Mrs Naomi James</td>
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<td>Principal</td>
<td>Ms Louise Gunther</td>
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<td>Deputy Principal Wellbeing</td>
<td>Mrs Christine Kralj</td>
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<td>Deputy Principal Curriculum</td>
<td>Mrs Madeleine Franken</td>
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<td>Deputy Principal Administration</td>
<td>Miss Rebecca Cetrola</td>
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<td>Director of Faith and Mission</td>
<td>Mr John Rhynehart</td>
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<td>Staff Representative</td>
<td>Mrs Anne Stephens</td>
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<td>College Captain 2013</td>
<td>Carlie Saunders</td>
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<td>College Vice Captain 2013</td>
<td>Shalyn Mathew</td>
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<td>Mulgrave Parish Rep.</td>
<td>Mrs Kerry Wilson</td>
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<td>Co-opted member Rowville Parish</td>
<td>Mrs Sally Anne Petrie</td>
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<td>President of the Canonical Administrators/</td>
<td>Father Brendan Dillon</td>
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<td>Parish Priest Glen Waverley</td>
<td>Ms Kim Rowland</td>
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<td>Minute Secretary</td>
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PRINCIPAL’S REPORT  
Ms Louise Gunther – Principal

Throughout 2013 the lyrics from the *Lanterns* song, by Birds of Tokyo were used on many occasions to inspire all of our Avila College community to aim higher and work towards achieving great things. A lantern can help you find your way in the darkness as it did all those years ago for Nano Nagle, the founder of the Presentation Sisters. She would venture out onto the streets at night holding her lantern high and take in the poor and homeless, dedicating her life to educating them. At Avila College our staff have continued to illuminate their students learning in so many ways with their dedication, innovation and professionalism.

The College Leadership Team have continued to oversee the direction and development of the College and after three years have cemented themselves as true professionals and as a group I am always grateful for their support of me in my role as well as their dedication to their specific roles. To Caryl Finnegan, Chair of the Board, Fr Brendan Dillon PP, Canonical Administrator, Norm Phillips, Business Manager and Kim Rowland, my EA, I thank you all for the roles you play within our College and in support of me as Principal.

School Review
One of the most significant events in the life of the College in 2013 was the four-year external CEOM School Review held on 7 and 9 May with a pre-visit held on 18 April. The lead reviewer was Keryn McGuinness and she was worked in conjunction with Janine Enright, the second reviewer. I thank all members of the College Leadership Team, Caryl Finnegan, Chair of the Board, members of the School Improvement Team and Kim Rowland for all their efforts in preparing our Avila College Self Reflection Report as well as the two days spent with the reviewers. We now have a School Improvement Plan for the next four years as well as Annual Action Plans for each of the five School Improvement Framework spheres to direct our work and planning focus.

Week-Day Open Morning Sessions
All four of our ‘Avila in Action’ Open Mornings held throughout 2013 were well attended – numbers would seem to reflect that parents will take time from work as well as bring their daughters with them if these sessions are held during the week-day morning. With over 1200 visitors to the college in the past 12 months, we are fortunate to have good numbers of people thinking about enrolling their daughter into Avila College. Our student ambassadors proudly conduct the tours and as we know, they personally sell the college for us.

2013 Academic Successes
Avila can be very proud of the academic successes of our graduating class of 2013. Some notable highlights include:

- Genevieve Townsend - ATAR 99.25 (DUX)
- Evelyn Andrews – ATAR 98.90
- Anita Coffa – ATAR 98.65
- Vanessa Langenberg – ATAR 98.20

21.7% of our students achieved an ATAR score of 90 and above.
Perfect Study Scores of 50 were achieved by:
Evelyn Andrews – English
Ruby Robertson – Product Design and Technology
Genevieve Townsend – Studio Arts

Avila College Parents and Friends Association
This newly formed group created in July 2013 are making significant gains in their involvement in the life of the College as well as their commitment and attendance at a range of school events. I would like to thank and acknowledge their efforts in their first six months of establishment and see this group as a key way to promote the college in support of the College Board.
PROMOTIONS AND PUBLICATIONS
Mrs Annie Opray – Director of Marketing and Development

Rebranding
A comprehensive rebranding campaign has been implemented at Avila College. The revised branding features a new colour palate which is vibrant and warm and it reproduces well both in print and on screen. The rebranding is gradually being implemented across the College.

Website, app and Twitter
The new College website was launched on Avila Day 15 October last year. We have received many positive comments about the site from current families and the wider community. It is important the site is kept current so edits and additions are ongoing, such as Latest News etc.

To further promote Avila College and all the wonderful opportunities on offer we have developed an app and established a Twitter account.

To download the free app;

iOS  

or Android  

or visit the app store and select Avila College. The app contains a wealth of information which is accessible anywhere, anytime. The app will also allow us to push out notifications for messages such as Sports day cancelled due to rain etc.

We are now also on Twitter and followers can learn about all the happenings at Avila, @avila_college and #avilacollege and https://twitter.com/Avila_College
Twitter provides a snapshot of events and successes.

A professional online presence is essential in today’s technological world. It is often the first port of call for families investigating educational options for their daughters.

Work has commenced on the Library website to bring it into line with the new branding.

Advertising/Editorial
A new sign was installed on Stephensons Road outside Holy Family and a new real estate board communicated the excellent 2013 VCE results.

New advertisements were developed to promote the Open Morning on Wednesday 19 February and they were placed in the Waverley and Knox Leaders.

The Open Morning was also promoted the week prior to the Open Morning on radio station Mix 101.1, which assisted in attracting excellent numbers on the day. Over 80 families registered on the College website and approx. 250 people attended the Open Morning.
In addition, new advertisements have appeared in the 2014 Catholic Good School’s Guide as well as the Theme magazine Catholic Education and Secondary Education issues.

Avila College advertisements will appear in the Leaders Catholic Education Week Feature and editorial and photographs have been supplied for editorial coverage. We will also have an advertisement in the upcoming Age newspaper feature ‘Having Faith in Catholic Education’ which will be published 27 April. 2014 Editorial options have been provided to the journalist compiling the feature.

We responded to a Catholic Education request to provide students to be photographed for a new Languages brochure they are producing. They came to the College with a photographer and photographed two senior students for the cover.

Promotional Materials
A range of marketing collateral has been produced which features the new branding and includes: pens, bookmarks, car stickers, 2014 calendar, Christmas, sympathy and three generic greeting cards, VCE high achievers gift pen, business cards, A4 general folders, roll out banners and staff nametags.

Stationery
A full set of stationery items with the new branding has been printed including letterhead, envelopes and a new enrolment form. A training session with our Administration Staff has been held and topics covered included the new stationery items as well as direction on consistent presentation for correspondence.

Alumnae
An electronic copy of the Alumnae Newsletter was uploaded to the College website in December and there is reunion in May for the Class of 2003 and also one planned for some members of the Class of 1965.

A meeting has been held with representatives from Presentation College Windsor and Star of the Sea to discuss hosting a joint Alumnae breakfast, possibly at the Caulfield Racecourse in September this year. The target demographic for this event is 24-50 to try to engage with younger Alumnae.

Events
Parents of Year 7 students were invited to join us for a cuppa after they dropped their girls at school on their first day and it was a very warm welcome for them to Avila.

On Friday 7 February we hosted a Year 7 Welcome Family Picnic, which was enjoyed by the many people who attended.

Members of the Avila Parents and Friends Association attended the Parent Information Evenings to encourage parents to get involved and to also advise of the planned events and activities for 2014.

Open Morning on Wednesday 19 February was very successful and the Principal received a very complimentary email from one father who visited the College, he said, “Avila was the complete package.” The School Ambassadors who toured families represented the College extremely well.
Avila College Parents and Friends Association
The Avila PFA is going from strength to strength with more parents attending the monthly meeting, 4 new members for the first meeting this year. There is a busy schedule of PFA hosted events for 2014 including, a Mothers Day Stall and Breakfast, a guest speaker evening featuring Lucinda Nolan the Deputy Chief Police Commissioner, a BABBA evening, a Fathers Day breakfast and a Spring Racing Gala Evening.

We have developed a new PFA logo and are in the process of setting up a PFA specific email address. Guidelines for the PFA are also being developed, using a template from the CEO as a base to clarify the role of the PFA and it’s members.

Golden Jubilee
The College’s Golden Jubilee in 2015 represents a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all that is special about Avila and to promote the College to the wider community. A comprehensive array of events and activities has been proposed to the Leadership Team for consideration.
Annual Reporting Meeting of the Avila College Board, March 18, 2014

CURRICULUM & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mrs Madeleine Franken - Deputy Principal, Curriculum

Curriculum

For the first time in 2013 all students and teachers had their own MacBooks. All attendance rolls for every lesson were marked online using SIMON, Learning Management System (LMS). Upgrades to local infrastructure and to the Catholic Network Australia (CNA) meant that there was reliable fast access to web-based resources and tools for learning and teaching. A particular feature of digital learning in the classroom in 2013 was the extensive use of collaborative tools such as Google docs, presentations, spreadsheets, forms and calendars. This facilitated many groups of both students and staff working together in virtual spaces. It made for easier collation of data and for planning; both at an individual and institutional level. More teachers experimented with “flipped classrooms” as their confidence with technology increased. This meant that they had more time within the scheduled class to address students’ individual needs because some of the explicit instruction was available to students via videos that they could view repeatedly until mastery of skills or content was achieved.

From semester two onwards, parents were able to access not only the fortnightly bulletin and calendar but also their daughters’ attendance records, semester reports and daily notices via the launch of the Parent Access Module (PAM). In semester two, for the first time, Year 8 students undertook a week-long City Experience program. This was overseen by the Melbourne based company, City Cite in conjunction with Discovery Learning Leader, Marina Kelly and the Year 8 Homeroom teachers. The value of student learning from this new program was evident in the enthusiastic and positive feedback from parents, particularly on Friday evenings at the conclusion of each City Experience week when parents gathered for their daughters’ presentations on their research projects.

The four phase one subjects of the Australian Curriculum, English, History, Maths and Science, were introduced to all students in Years 7 to 10 using a revised time allocation model. All students in Year 10 were required to undertake two semesters of Science and one of AC History. Time for Science was increased from 5ppc to 6ppc. Other timetable changes included the semesterisation of Languages at Year 7 and in the Arts and Technologies areas at Year 9. This is consistent with current educational research that "privileges the importance of depth of learning rather than superficial exposure to an ever-expanding breadth of content" (VCAA F-10 Curriculum planning and reporting guidelines 2014). Alignment of the timetable grid in 2013 for Years 10 to 12 also meant that students in year 10 had increased access to a broader range of VCE units for acceleration, thus enabling courses to be better tailored to address the individual learning needs of students.

As a consequence of the Curriculum Committee’s review of homework and late work policies, a formal procedure for applying for an extension of time for an assessment task was developed. This process was developed to ensure consistency in granting extensions to students who are affected by events beyond their control, as well as mindful of teaching students how to manage the challenge of meeting timelines.

Within the regular classroom, gifted and talented students were encouraged to extend their learning through participation in competitions such as national Geography, Home Economics, Maths and Science competitions. Language students earned enviable results in the Language Perfect World Championships, as well as in the Dante Alighieri and Alliance Francaise speaking competitions. Talented writers were rewarded with their
writing selected for publication in the Victorian edition of *Shared Stories*. Drama students performed in the Catholic Education Office’s school drama competition and arts students were acknowledged for their skill with selection of their work for exhibition in public galleries and spaces. In the various sporting competitions on offer, students were also able to extend development of their physical skills and techniques as well as their keen sense of strategy and game sense. Selected students were also given opportunities to develop their lateral thinking skills through participation in events such as public speaking competitions, the Philosophy for Students Conference and in the Tournament of Minds and the Great Spaghetti Machine competitions.

**VCE and NAPLAN Results**

The class of 2013 achieved some excellent results with 4 students achieving ATARs above 98 and three perfect study scores in English, Product Design and Technology, and Studio Arts. These 4 top students undertook studies across a broad range of subjects from the arts, commerce, health, humanities, languages and science areas, with all including Maths Methods in their studies. Avila’s median study score was 32 for the second year in a row. Of note was that 19.4% of students attained a study score above 40 in either English or Literature. This was an exceptionally strong result and is attributed in part to additional practice by the students and increased targeted professional learning opportunities for staff.

NAPLAN Results were similar to previous years with slight dips in literacy at both Years 7 and 9. Avila students are generally strong in the literacy area and on a par with the state in numeracy. In numeracy at Year 9 there was a slight improvement, possibly as a consequence of the Purposeful Teaching of Maths and the Early Morning Maths programs.

The 2013 NAPLAN median results were as follows:

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<th>Yr 7 Avila</th>
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<th>Yr 9 Avila</th>
<th>Yr 9 State</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
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<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>597</td>
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Professional Development
At the beginning of 2013, Avila College committed to a more extensive performance and coaching program with Group 8 Education. All teachers in positions of leadership undertook coach training and were allocated about 3 teachers each to coach. All teachers also received feedback from their students via online surveys.

10 staff members from Avila undertook formal study throughout 2013 of which 5 were at Masters level. Individual study by teachers in 2013 included completion of a Masters in Education (Student Wellbeing) at the University of Melbourne by Karis Dalton and commencement of the same program by Rachel Janssen, Amanda Flynn and Anna Marvelli. Angela Torelli completed her Masters in Educational Leadership through Australian Catholic University. Steven Francis and Paul Tato commenced post graduate studies in Science at the University of Southern Queensland. Lisa Moloney undertook a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment at Holmesglen TAFE. Carly Randle and Gemma Di Bari completed a 10 week Professional Certificate course in Adolescent Counselling at Monash University. Ingrid O’Sullivan was awarded a scholarship for a 3 week intensive language course in Indonesia. Madeleine Scott-Jones, Darcie Kane-Priestley and Madeleine Franken undertook a 30 hour program on the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching conducted by Caritas Australia.

Many other teachers attended one or two day conferences on a broad range of subjects related to teaching and learning, the Australian Curriculum, theology, the purpose of the Catholic school, and to their professional and legal responsibilities.

New role descriptions in 2013 for Curriculum Leaders identified their key role as leaders of learning for their professional teams. This new understanding led to a greater use of faculty meeting time being devoted to professional learning. Some brought in guest speakers whilst other made use of the expertise within the school to share and develop knowledge and skills through workshops and seminars. All staff undertook learning more about the mission of the Catholic school through a presentation from Sr Frances Baker (ACU). Online resources were used to ensure that staff were well informed about matters associated with the law regarding mandatory reporting of child abuse. College nurse, Cathy Angus organised opportunities for staff to undertake first aid and management of anaphylaxis training. Cathy also presented to the staff regarding the treatment of students with high-risk medical conditions. EMQ conducted annual update training for all staff on evacuation procedures and management of a lock down. Coupled with involvement in the School Improvement Review consultation processes, staff at Avila had many opportunities to extend their professional learning to ensure that the College is well placed to meet student needs in 2014.
ADMINISTRATION REPORT
Miss Rebecca Cetrola – Deputy Principal, Administration

Calendar Events
In the fast paced world in which we live it seems that everyone has a busy schedule and it is no different at Avila College. In 2013, a myriad of wonderful opportunities were made available to our students that celebrated the diversity and breadth of education that Avila College offers. Below is only a snapshot of the calendared events for 2013.

There are many annual events that continue to evolve and celebrate the skills and talents of our students. In 2013 we were taken to the Movies at the Music Festival, celebrated the sporting achievements of students at the Sports Awards Night, student and staff highly developed Art skills were exhibited in the Art Show, and we were enthralled by the dramatic performances of students in the Drama Festival. In 2013, the College Grad Show allowed senior students work in art and technology subjects to go on exhibition. This was the first time that technology subjects had been included in the Grad Show.

The Creative Arts Festival again showcased a range of talents across both the performing and visual arts. A collaborated approach resulted in a very successful show of the The Wizard of Aus. The show also featured a student drumming group, Ltyentye Apurte Drummers, from the Santa Teresa community, NT.

The Discovery Learning Program which includes the Year 7 and 9 camps, the Year 8 City Experience and Senior Ski Trip were a highlight for all participants. In particular, the inaugural City Experience program was a resounding success.

Sporting opportunities were once again exhaustive in 2013. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a range of SCSA sporting competitions, as well as the Waverley International Netball Tournament, and the All Schools Netball Competition. The House Swimming Carnival was held at Oakleigh Recreation Centre. Unfortunately the College House Athletics Carnival was cancelled due to inclement weather conditions. Instead, a Year 7-9 House Athletics Carnival was rescheduled for the last day of the school year which was well attended.

Avila’s commitment to reconciliation in 2013 continued to thrive, with a shared awareness of indigenous issues across the College community. Students were involved in activities supporting NAIDOC week, Marngrook Day, Proud Race Day, The Long Walk, just to name a few. Avila and Aquinas College students participated in a forum held at Avila on the proposed referendum to recognise Aboriginal people in the Constitution. Miranda Koroknai, 2013 College Fire Carrier, was also invited to the launch of an exhibition to share the development of Avila’s Indigenous Person bollards and talk about the many events the bollards had enhanced.

We gathered as a whole school community on numerous occasions to celebrate the Eucharist, and celebrated achievements at whole school assemblies. A change to the College Assembly format and focus was evident in 2013. Day 1 of the school year started with all students from Years 7-12 gathering for a whole school assembly, with our College leaders addressing the school community. We held our inaugural High Achievers College Assembly in February, where we celebrated and acknowledged those who achieved outstanding ATAR scores of 90 and above and students who attained the highest study
score in their subject at Avila in 2012. Parents of students being presented were invited to attend the assembly and an afternoon tea.

With an effort to make connections with old collegians, in 2013 each whole school assembly involved an old collegian addressing the college community. Speakers included Laura De Rango (dux of 2012), Alicia Muling (class of 2006) and Rachel Burt (class of 1992).

In 2013 a range of activities allowed for students from both Avila College and Mazenod College to interact. These included the Avila/Mazenod Musical, the Year 12 BBQ, the Avila/Mazenod Orchestra Workshop and Concert, and the Year 9 Reflection Day. Staff collaboration between both schools also increased in 2013. For example, the performing arts team from both colleges met once a term.

Students at the College were provided with numerous opportunities to participate in subject competitions run by outside organisations including the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools Science Competition (ICAS), the Australian National Chemistry Quiz, the Science Talent Search Competition, the Australian Mathematics Competition, the Dante Alighieri Competition, the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority’s (VCAA) Plain English Speaking Awards, the Rostrum Voice of Youth, Spaghetti Machine Science Competition, IT & Programming competitions, and many more.

Avila continued to focus on extending student leadership capabilities by providing opportunities for our students to attend internal and external run leadership seminars. A highlight for Year 12 Leaders in 2013 was attending the Left Right Thinktank HEELS Conference at Melbourne University, aimed at inspiring young females to take leadership roles and affirmative action in Australia’s future.

Community Service activities in 2013 included Year 10 Community Service week, community service participation in programs such as Rosie’s and Haylcon Centre, as well as all Year 11 students participating in the inaugural Nano’s Lantern Community Service Day.

Debating and Public Speaking events continued to feature on the 2013 calendar. With students participating in DAV, Rostrum and Lions competitions throughout the year. As well internal debating and public speaking competitions run at lunchtime.

The senior students attended their formals. The Year 12 Formal at Brighton International and the Year 11 formal at the Lincoln of Toorak. VCAL students were involved in the organization of both events, and undertook duties such as collecting of monies, forms, table allocation, etc.

Thanks is extended to the entire Avila College staff who coordinate so many opportunities for our students to bring their learning to life.

**VCE/VCAL**

The College was audited by the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority for the following in 2013:

- VCE Studies Audit: Studio Arts, Visual Communication
In May the College was audited by the VCAA for Unit 3 Studio Arts and Unit 3 Visual Communication. Both achieved satisfactory results and feedback was provided to Curriculum Leaders and teaching staff regarding their courses in August.

In 2013 there was an increase in special arrangement applications by students that undertook a Unit 3 & 4 study. Subsequently, resulting in greater number of examination spaces and supervisors required for examinations in 2013.

A VCE Panel had to be established to review:

- Four Unit 3 Breaches reported to the VCAA in Semester 1, 2013
- One Unit 4 Breach reported to the VCAA in Semester 2, 2013.

In 2013, 297 students from Year 11 -12 undertook the VCE General Achievement Test. Avila hosted four CAAFL Language examinations and 43 VCE written examinations.

**Registered Training Organisation**

The College decided to cease operation as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) at the conclusion of 2013. There were many reasons for the decision including costs, and management of intricate responsibilities. The College has formally gone into an auspice agreement for 2014 VET programs.

**Organisational / Administrative Update**

**Excursions**

Students learning is well supported by exciting, purposeful and engaging excursions. The excursion process continued to be refined to ensure that the College was well informed of all aspects of the excursion. In 2013, the college ensured that all off-site activity, including every excursion and camp, was logged into the Catholic Education Office Student Activity Locator.

**Term Planners**

To support teaching and learning programs the following changes to the College calendar were implemented in 2013 for the first time:

- Year 9 camp, Year 10 Community Service and the Canberra Study Tour all ran simultaneously. This was planned purposely to minimise the impact of class disruption and teacher absence from classes.
- Semester 2 classes began on Monday, 24 June (before the Term 2 holiday break). This was the first time the entire College timetable rolled over prior to the end of the term. The seamless rollout of the timetable was thanks to the work of our Daily Organiser, Chris Nichols and her assistant, Allan Kennedy. This earlier rollover into Semester 2 has evened out the length of both semesters, supporting in particular senior classes, and promoted purposeful teaching and learning after reports had been completed.
- Student Leaders Seminars took on a different format and calendared for an entire day only twice a year.
- All Level Assemblies timetabled at the same time.
- Noting excursion free weeks in the calendar to support peak times of subject courses.
Year 10 and 11 Examinations Review
A review of Year 10 and 11 examinations took place in 2013. All faculties at the College were asked to provide feedback about examination planning for 2014. Each faculty provided their subject feedback about the ideal length of examinations for each year level and placement of examinations in the term planners. Feedback was reviewed and examinations were planned according to the feedback.

Discovery Learning
A camps review working party was established in 2013. This working party focused on reviewing Year 7 and Year 9 camps, and ensuring that all Discovery Learning programs (camps & city experience) were in alignment with college Discovery Learning Objectives, and providing sequential skill development and connected learning. Exploration, research and contact was made with numerous camp providers. After consultation with various committees within the college, a decision was made to implement changes to 2014 Year 7 and Year 9 camp program. Avila College went into partnership with Outdoor Education Group to operate both camps. Regular meetings were held in 2013 with Avila College and OEG staff to devise Year 7 and 9 camp programs.

Emergency Management
Avila college staff were involved in annual Emergency Management Training in 2013. The college Warden Team undertook a two hour training session and all staff attended a training session at the beginning of the school year.

On Monday, 12 August, EMQ conducted an assessment of the college in lockdown using the annual inspection methodology as detailed in Australian Standard AS 1851, which is designed to determine whether the site’s Emergency Management System continues to comply with the requirements of Australian Standard AS 3745. EMQ compiled a report with a record of observations and recommendations. Overall the report stated that Avila College is in an excellent state of preparedness to safely lockdown buildings in an emergency situation.

Documentation Review
The College commenced an audit of College policies and procedure documents in 2013. A document register was set up identifying the name of document, type, date created, due for review, location, person responsible for updating, and where it should be located/published. As of 2014 all documents will be stored centrally on SIMON, and written in a consistent policy-writing format.

Redesign of all student and staff application forms for overseas study tours, ski trip and Santa Teresa Immersion. The redesign ensures that all conditions of tours are explicitly documented for all stakeholders.

The Overseas Study Tour Policy was updated to include that First Aid was a requirement for all staff going on College tours.

A new Assessment Policy was devised with the inclusion of all assessment related documents such as Late Work Policy, Extension Guidelines, Breach of Assessment conditions, etc.
Study Tours/Immersions
In 2013 the following College tours took place:
- Indonesia Study Tour
- France Study Tour
- Santa Teresa Cultural Immersion
- Canberra Study Tour

Planning for the 2014 Italy Study Tour commenced and negotiations with Trekset tours were finalized.

The Avila College Overseas Study Tour policy was updated with input from Languages department on the objectives of language tours. Subsequently, a formal meeting with the Deputy Principal Administration, Languages Curriculum Leader, language staff and Trekset International Manager took place to review and evaluate future itineraries.

Trekset was employed to organize and facilitate the Indonesia and France Tour in 2013. Both Indonesia and France tours had changes to itineraries to ensure a greater focus on language development and activities.

Students and staff travelled to Central Australia for a cultural immersion. They spent a couple of days in Alice Springs, then travelled to Santa Teresa where they undertook various spiritual and community service activities. The concluding days of the trip involved visiting Uluru and surrounding areas.
2013 was a year of planning and reflection for the Pastoral Care Team. We engaged in the development of the Living and Values Program and reflected, through the School Improvement Framework (SIF) processes, on College programs and policy that support the wellbeing of students. The result of the SIF process has been the development of a four-year action plan, which includes well-defined goals and outcomes.

### School Improvement Framework

**Goal**

*To further develop a whole school approach to student wellbeing that encourages the students in compassion, resilience, good physical and mental wellbeing, and respect for themselves and others.*

**Outcomes**

1. That student morale will improve
2. That students will feel more connected to school
3. That staff’s awareness, skill and knowledge regarding student wellbeing issues and protective approaches will improve
4. To improve attendance and outcomes for ‘at risk’ students

The work of the Pastoral Care Team is always hallmarked by a desire to work in partnership with all staff and parents. Our focus is to ensure that excellent learning opportunities for our young women are delivered in an environment that nurtures and cares for their wellbeing.

### Major Foci of the Pastoral Care Team in 2013

**Living and Values Program (LAVP)**

- Imbedding the vision and rationale in lessons
- Lesson framework
- Lesson development with Homeroom Teacher team
- Resource selection (Reference books, DVDs, speakers etc)

**Counselling Procedures**

- Stronger links to outside agencies

**Student Co-curricula Programs**

- Craft Club (Initiative of Helen Tillinh, School Psychologist)
- Project Group (students in Year 7 and 8 are selected to complete a community service activity to give students a chance to build relationships and social skills)
- Peer Helpers (Year 10 peer support program focused on supporting Year 7 students with transition and active lunchtimes)
- Support the planning of the end of year alternative week program (Years 7-9)
- Student Leadership Program (Year 12 formation, Leadership seminars)
- Student Representative Council (SRC) – Red Cross Door Knock, SRC expo, Biggest Morning Tea, Avila Day celebrations.
House/Homeroom Structure (Working Party)
- Looked at a range of homeroom structure both vertical and horizontal
- Assessed the pros and cons of each structure
- Looked at drivers for change - “Connectedness to school” (SIF)
- Findings:
  - Status Quo works well and enables strong Year level identity
  - Current Staff pastoral care system allow students to be known by HRT but get to know more students and teachers through homerooms changing annually
  - Need to look at other ways to promote school spirit through house events
  - Re-structure student leadership for 2015
  - Talk to students about what builds connectedness.

Extension of Work (Year 7 – 10)
- Re-development of the late work policy and application for extension procedures

Staff Professional Workshops
- DEECD Mandatory Reporting eLearning Module (annual requirement)
- Positive Education – Webinar
- Youth Mental Health First Aid Course – Part 1 complete at the end of 2013

Health Centre
- Newsletter Articles (Healthy Eating, Sleep and Learning etc.)
- High Medical Risk students (information update, parent contact, staff presentation)
- First Aid Training of staff
- Compulsory Training of all staff for anaphylaxis (external provider)
2013 was an exciting and eventful year for Avila College. It saw the Avila community take on the theme of Do It Differently. The leaders chose this theme in the hope that each person takes a different action to improve themselves by changing their attitudes for the better. The college fully embraced D.I.D. through their participation in extracurricular activities, whole school events and by trying new things. The whole school gathered for the first time at the college assembly, where new members to the Avila community were welcomed and the leaders presented the theme Do It Differently through an exciting dramatic performance. The school year also commenced with a beautiful opening school mass that united the Avila community through the celebration of the Eucharist.

Semester one was busy and exciting. Oral Reports provided parents with the opportunity for parents to become more engaged in their daughter’s learning. After many hours of rehearsals, Creative Arts was a huge success, showcasing some of Avila’s most talented actors, musicians and dancers as they took a trip down the yellow brick road through their performance of The Wizard of Aus.

The Reconciliation Group was busy as they opened their Wominjika room, ran Close the Gap Day and also participated in the Long Walk to the MCG. The girls were able to watch the amazing drummers from Santa Teresa (who also performed at Creative Arts) showcase their talents. In addition, a prayer room was created in the old junior school building as a space for prayer and reflection. The Liturgy Captains also provided a breakfast for the mothers of Year 12 students to celebrate Mothers’ Day.

The year started with our main fundraising effort for Caritas and the Avila community dug deep and raised over $6000 for the foundation. The Red Cross Door Knock was also a success with participation soaring as many girls embraced the theme of D.I.D. In term two, the SRC hosted The Biggest Morning Tea which raised funds for the Cancer Council.

Avila showed their house spirit when the whole school came together for the House Swimming day held in Oakleigh. The day was a great success with great weather encouraging students and teachers to participate and gain house points. Unfortunately due to the weather, House Athletics in term two had to be cancelled although sport at Avila had great levels of participation throughout the year. The girls performed well in their swimming, diving, athletics, tennis, basketball and aerobics competitions and many more.

The year 10s made a difference for the better in our community by participating in community service at the end of term one. Also, the year 11 and year 12 girls were fortunate enough to attend formals, taking some time to break from study and have a very fun night.

The Year 7 and 9 students had the opportunity to go camping with their peers and teachers which helped them develop very useful skills. Some of the students studying Indonesian were lucky enough to attend the Indonesian Study Tour to experience the culture and practice their language skills. Also, girls studying politics and legal studies went to Canberra on a study tour to learn about parliament and visit important monuments.
Orchestra camp at the start of the year was a great way for our musicians to prepare for the musical year ahead. Our public speakers and debaters performed well in various competitions such as DAV debating against other schools. Furthermore, the leaders across all year levels were lucky enough to take part in leadership seminars which helped them to plan for the year ahead and also be educated about leadership.

The newly introduced pastoral program of Living and Values was a success. Students found it extremely beneficial to discuss issues we face in our everyday lives and homeroom groups became closer with their peers and homeroom teachers.

Semester two was also an exciting one in 2013 at Avila. The year 8 city experience was a new event in the calendar that left the rest of the school jealous. As for the year 12s, the girls attended their last reflection day in their time at Avila in term three. The senior students brought us all back to the 1950s at the annual Avila/Mazenod Musical. Their version of Footloose had the audience up on their feet singing along to all the classic songs from the well-known film.

The results of the Science and Geography competitions showed the wide range of skills Avila girls have, with high distinctions being awarded in each area. Different year levels also participated in Reflection Days, as well as the SRC Expo which was held in term three. This gave different departments the opportunity to showcase their area of expertise to the rest of the College.

As 2013 concluded, students in all year levels showcased their talents through different occasions such as music week which involved the Music Festival themed ‘At The Movies’ and Avila’s Got Talent. Sports Awards Night acknowledged the achievements of all our young sportswomen. The senior school artists displayed their incredible masterpieces they had been working on all year at the Graduate Show which was a great success.

The Avila community was very generous with donations which led to making Avila Day this year a one of remember. From the breathtaking mass that commenced the celebrations to the launching of the new Avila website, Avila Day was full of excitement, pride and mixed emotions especially for the year 12 students.

Some year 10 girls placed themselves out of their comfort zone by participating in the Ski Trip whereas others travelled to Alice Springs to aid the Santa Teresa community. Some students studying French also travelled around France for two weeks. The last term saw the year 12 students graduate with lots of hard work and celebrations.
2013 was a year of challenges and opportunities for the Avila College staff.

We began the year by welcoming a number of new members of staff and with the usual busyness of school life. Some staff returned from time away, including long-time staff members, Andrea McCann and Sue Liston.

A number of interesting Professional Development experiences were delivered to staff including Group 8 leadership seminars for all of those in positions of leadership within the school. These seminars helped to guide those in all levels of leadership through a process of mentoring and collaboration.

Tutorials are often offered by knowledgeable members of staff after school to enrich other staff members’ understanding of areas such as Pastoral Care and technology. This generosity of staff members to share their expertise is always greatly appreciated.

The Social Committee continued to raise staff morale by offering Friday night drinks and hosting celebrations of special events, whilst the counselling staff organised the Staff Wellbeing Week at the end of Term 2. As this is during Report Writing time, the efforts of the counselling staff do not go unnoticed.

Staff continued to go over and above their duty to provide NAPLAN and examination preparation and supervision, contribute to the Creative Arts Festival, attend school camps and other whole school activities. The Subject Selection season in July, August and September, gave staff the welcomed opportunity to counsel their students on the benefits of the various subject areas.

Many staff modelled the Catholic commitment to faith in action by volunteering to accompany the Year 12 students on the Rosie’s experience - a program for school students to work with the homeless and destitute at Flinders Street Station every Friday night.

At the end of 2013 we were sad to farewell some long-standing staff members: Angela Boston and Marg Kelleher. Both Angela and Marg will be missed by all, but especially by their colleagues in the Religious Education and English departments.

Our year ended with the sharing of a staff Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral and a lovely lunch at the Hyatt. We continue to be an intelligent, dynamic group of people who are truly committed to teaching and helping students to learn to the best of their ability. This continues to enhance the educational process at our school.

Thank you to the Leadership Team and the Board for their continued support.